

L'Ecole

No 41

2020 Cabernet Sauvignon - Cellar Selection Estate Ferguson Vineyard, Walla Walla Valley

WINEMAKER COMMENT

To celebrate our 40th year, we present this 100% Cabernet Sauvignon sourced from our esteemed Estate Ferguson Vineyard. Named for our Founders, Baker and Jean Ferguson, this vineyard was planted with biologically diverse sustainable practices and produces wines with bold, dark fruit and complex mineral notes. This truly cellar-worthy wine expresses the power and vitality of this distinctive terroir.

FERGUSON VINEYARD

Ferguson Vineyard is a stunning, high-elevation site overlooking a panoramic view of the Walla Walla Valley. With 30 planted acres, vines are rooted in fractured basalt rock from 15-million-year-old ancient lava flows overlaid with a thin layer of wind-blown loess. The vineyard is Certified Sustainable and Certified Salmon Safe.

VINTAGE

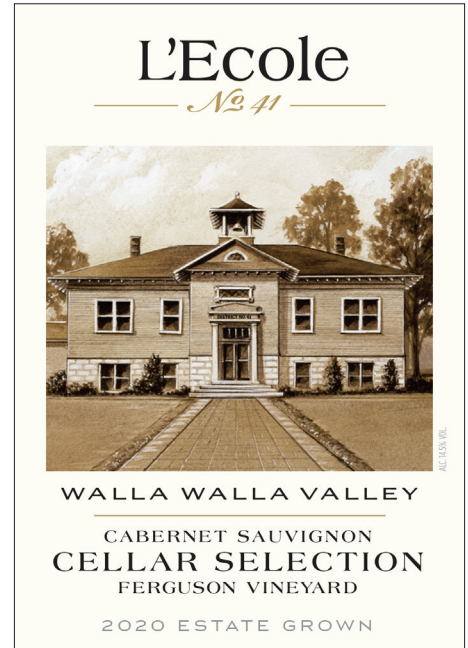
- An easy, mild growing season combined with low yields and a prolonged harvest resulted in wines with wonderful balance, color, and vibrant fruit.
- A normal but quick mid-April bud break was followed by warm spring weather. Freeze events in late 2019 lowered bud fertility, combined with rain and wind during June bloom, which resulted in unusually low yields.
- Heat accumulation tracked the long-term average with veraison on time in early August.
- Older CA/OR wildfire smoke briefly settled into the Columbia Basin the 2nd week of September. Fortunately, the impact on our grapes was negligible since most of the fruit was at a later stage of maturity, combined with the nature of it being older smoke. The diffused sunlight and cooler temperatures slowed ripening, extending harvest well into October.
- The long growing season combined with low yields resulted in wonderful balance, length, and aromatics in the whites, and concentrated flavor, color, texture, and structure in the reds.

WINEMAKING

- 40 years of meticulous vineyard management and winemaking experience are fundamental to the quality of our wines and reputation for excellence.
- Each lot was hand-harvested ripe and gently crushed into 1.5-ton open-topped stainless-steel fermenters.
- Gentle handling of the fruit through hand punch downs and gravity-assisted movements was utilized throughout the entire winemaking process.
- The wine was cleanly racked to small French oak barrels, 40% new, and barrel aged for 22 months.

TASTING NOTES

This small production Cabernet Sauvignon unveils captivating aromas of dark cherries, graphite, bay leaf, crushed rocks, and rose petals on the nose and presents a commanding profile in the mouth that is structured, dark, and inviting. Ferguson Vineyard's signature basalt-driven minerality pervades the palate and is fleshed out by flavors of bramble berries and savory tobacco on a powerful and persistent finish.



HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates	OCTOBER 11 - 19, 2020
Average tons/acre	2.16
Average Brix	25.1°
Average pH	3.22
Average Acidity	6.5 g/L

WINE DATA

Composition	100% CABERNET SAUVIGNON
pH	3.78
Total Acidity	5.8 g/L
Alcohol	14.5%
Bottling Date	JUNE 28, 2022
Release	FALL 2023
Case Production	530